

As a broadcast student in the early 70's, I learned that broadcasters, for the right to use public airwaves free of charge, were obligated to serve the public interest. The public airwaves should not be used by television executives to promote a partisan political agenda. Sinclair's action crosses a line and we are asking to send a clear message to Sinclair to drop its current plans to peddle partisan propaganda to the American people in place of the balanced election and public affairs coverage we deserve.

But the issue is bigger than this one instance. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.